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Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 AF-04 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INR-05
INRE-00 CIAE-00 SP-02 PRS-01 DODE-00 PM-03 /037 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:JRCOUNTRYMAN:CEJ
APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON
S/S-O:TMARTIN
AF/E - MR. POST
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O R 120132Z OCT 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE
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AMEMBASSY MUSCAT IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY SANA
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
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TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: ATHERTON BILATERALS WITH OMAN AND UAE: US-PDRY RELATIONS

1. DURING ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON'S BILATERALS WITH MINISTERS ZAWAWI OF OMAN AND SUWAIDI OF THE UAE ON OCT 3, ATHERTON BRIEFED THE FOREIGN MINISTERS ON THE SECRETARY'S MEETING EARLIER SAME DAY WITH PDRY FOREIGN MINISTER MUTI'.

2. ATHERTON NOTED OCT 3 MEETING WITH PDRY BASED ON CONSIDERABLE PREPARATION. DURING LAST YEAR'S UNGA, SOUTH YEMENIS HAD INDICATED INTEREST IN IMPROVING RELATIONS. IN THE INTERIM WE HAVE BEEN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE SAUDIS AND HAVE FOLLOWED CLOSELY THEIR EFFORTS TO WEAN THE PDRY AWAY FROM ITS ALMOST EXCLUSIVE RELIANCE ON COMMUNIST AND RADICAL STATES. AS RESULT OF PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS WITH PDRY PERMREP ASHTAL, WE BOTH CONCLUDED IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO USE THIS YEAR'S UNGA TO SEEK ONCE AGAIN AN IMPROVEMENT IN US-PDRY RELATIONS. THE SECRETARY'S OCT 3 MEETING WITH MUTI' WENT WELL. WE AGREED IT IS IN OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS AND WE WILL BE FOLLOWING UP ON SPECIFIC STEPS IN PERIOD AHEAD. WE BELIEVE IT IS IN OUR INTERESTS AND IN THOSE OF OTHER FRIENDLY REGIONAL POWERS TO GIVE THE PDRY REGIME AN ALTERNATIVE TO RELIANCE ON THE SOVIETS.

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WE HAVE NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT THE PDRY REGIME; WE WILL MOVE WITH FULL SENSITIVITY TO THE FEELINGS OF OUR FRIENDS IN THE AREA AND KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THEM.

3. FONMIN SUWAIDI MERELY THANKED ATHERTON FOR THE BRIEFING AND ASKED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT BE KEPT INFORMED OF FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS. FONMIN ZAWAWI SAID HIS GOVT HAS ALWAYS SUPPORTED SUCH A MOVE BY THE US, BUT HAS SAID TO ANY GOVERNMENT WISHING TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH THE PDRY THAT IT SHOULD BE WARY IN ITS DISCUSSIONS. OMAN CONTINUES TO FEEL THAT THE PDRY WISHES TO "PLAY BOTH SIDES" IN AN ATTEMPT TO IMPROVE ITS POLITICAL STANDING AND ECONOMIC PROSPECTS. ZAWAWI ADDED THAT THE SAUDIS ADMIT THEY HAVE NOT MADE MUCH PROGRESS WITH THE PDRY. HE ADDED THAT IN HIS MOST RECENT MEETING WITH MUTI', PDRY HAS ASKED THAT THE MEETING BE KEPT SECRET. WHY SHOULD THIS BE, ASKED ZAWAWI, IF THE PDRY IS SERIOUS ABOUT IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH OMAN.

4. ADDRESSEES MAY DRAW ON PARA 2 ABOVE TO BRIEF HOST GOVERNMENTS, NOTING THAT WE WILL KEEP THEM CURRENT ON SUBSEQUENT CONTACTS WITH THE PDRY AND THE EVOLUTION OF OUR

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RELATIONSHIP.

5. FOR SANA: SECRETARY BRIEFED YAR FONMIN ASNAG DURING MEETING SATURDAY, OCT 8. YOU MAY DRAW ON REPORT OF THAT CONVERSATION (SEPTEL) IN DISCUSSING SUBJECT WITH YARG.

6. FOR LONDON AND JIDDA: SEPARATE INSTRUCTIONS ARE BEING SENT TO YOU FOR BRIEFING HOST GOVERNMENTS.

7. FOR TEL AVIV: WE ARE INFORMING ISRAELI EMBASSY HERE.

8. FOR OTHER INFO ADDRESSEES: IF YOU BELIEVE ANY ACTION IS NEEDED WITH YOUR HOST GOVERNMENTS AT THIS STAGE, YOU SHOULD ADVISE DEPT AND SEEK FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS. WE

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WILL IN ANY CASE AUTHORIZE YOU TO INFORM HOST GOVERNMENTS BEFORE ANY STEPS ARE PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
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Original Classification: SECRET
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Previous Classification: SECRET
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Subject: ATHERTON BILATERALS WITH OMAN AND UAE: US-PDRY RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, XF, US, YE, (ATHERTON, ALFRED L JR)
To: KUWAIT MANAMA MULTIPLE
Type: TE
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